



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 6, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents; Nonpublic School Administrators; Public School Academy Directors; and Public, Private, and Parochial School Principals

SUBJECT: Training for Mandated Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is working collaboratively with the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Michigan Child Death Review Program in an effort to ensure that all teachers and school administrators are trained in the responsibilities and requirements of all mandated reporters. This need has recently been identified by the Child Death State Advisory Team as vital to the safety of children in Michigan. All school administrators and teachers are mandated reporters according to the Child Protection Law. Teachers and other school professionals are the front line of defense when it comes to protecting Michigan's children from child abuse and neglect.

Some of your staff may have already been trained in these issues, however, updates are always being made to the Child Protection Law. In addition, staff turnover leads to a continued need for training.

Due to these reasons, MDE recommends that each school administrator contact his/her local Child Protective Services office to schedule an in-service. The start of a new school year is an ideal time to review your policies and practice to ensure compliance with the Child Protection Law. Local DHS offices have been notified and are prepared to assist you. Local DHS office contact numbers can be found at www.michigan.gov/dhs.

MDE and DHS staff are available to assist you should you have questions. Please contact Kim Kovalchick, MDE, at kovalchickk@michigan.gov or via phone at 517-241-4292; or Zoe Lyons, DHS, at lyonsz2@michigan.gov or via phone at 517-335-3475.

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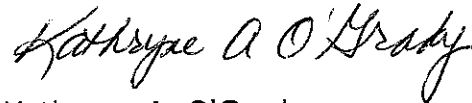
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Thank you for your continued commitment to the protection and well-being of Michigan's children. A student who is safe and healthy is a student ready to learn.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Wolenberg
Deputy Superintendent
Michigan Department of Education



Kathryne A. O'Grady
Deputy Director
Michigan Department of Human Services